Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-144
Thursday
25 July 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-144 *25 July 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: This volume contains a representative selection of material previously disseminated in softcopy format.

ALBANIA

Albania: People's Assembly's Vote of Confidence Detailed *[ATA]* 1
Albania: PS Bars Nano From Delivering Congress Report *[KOHA JONE 24 Jul]* 1
Albania: Assembly Commission To Investigate 26 May Elections *[ATA]* 2

BULGARIA

Bulgaria: President Warned About Plot To Destroy Dams *[Sofia Radio]* 3
Bulgaria: BSP Council Reaffirms Support for Pirinski *[Sofia Radio]* 3
Bulgaria: Commentary Examines BSP Reaction to Court Ruling *[TRUD 25 Jul]* 3
Bulgaria: Pavlov on Loss of Army Radio Frequencies *[24 CHASA 19 Jul]* 4

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic: Minority Parties Agree Not To Back Government *[Prague Radio]* 5
Czech Republic: Chamber Ends Debate on Policy Statement *[Prague Radio]* 5
Czech Republic: CSSD To Give 'Chance' to Minority Government *[Prague Radio]* 5
Czech Republic: Klaus Thanks Deputies for Confidence Vote *[Prague TV]* 5
Czech Republic: U.S. Military Aid for NATO Enlargement Welcomed *[Prague Radio]* 5

HUNGARY

Hungary: Official Views Compensation Claims for IFOR Damage *[NEPSZAVA 24 Jul]* 6
Hungary: Foreign Ministry Not To Respond to Conference Results *[PRAVDA 24 Jul]* 6
Hungary: KDNP Rejects Slovak Party's 'Provocative' Campaign *[Budapest Radio]* 7

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

B-H: Ganic Views Achievements of Belgrade Discussions *[Sarajevo TV]* 8
B-H: Izetbegovic Opposes EU Withdrawal From Mostar *[BETA]* 8
B-H: EU's Legal Basis To Operate in Mostar Denied *[Zagreb Radio]* 8
B-H: HDZ Party Leader on Preservation of Croats' Status *[Mostar Radio]* 9
B-H: Tuzla Mayor on Election, Interethnic Party *[Rome L'ESPRESSO 18 Jul]* 10
B-H: Federation Minister Assesses Public Safety *[NASA BORBA 22 Jul]* 10
B-H: Bildt Resignation Over Stance on Karadzic Suggested *[OSLOBODJENJE 23 Jul]* 13
B-H: Plavsic Questions Holbrooke's Role as Mediator *[FONET]* 14
B-H: General Sees 'Victims,' Conflict If Mladic Arrested *[Madrid ABC 22 Jul]* 14
B-H: Klickovic Rejects Any Reintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina *[TANJUG]* 15
B-H: Radical Leader Accuses Milosevic of Betraying Brcko *[BETA]* 16

CROATIA

Croatia: Belgium To Invest $4 Million in Vukovar River Port *[Beli Manastir Radio]* 17
Croatia: Persecution of Ex-Krajina Serbs 'Continues' *[TANJUG]* 17
Croatia: Commentary Says Officials, UNTAES Seek To Expel Serbs *[Beli Manastir Radio-TV]* 17
Croatia: Fairness in Bosnian TV Election Coverage 'Illusion' *[HRVATSKI OBZOR 22 Jul]* 18

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

FYROM: PDP Urges Albanian Students To Be Calm *[MIC]* 20

FYROM: Ethnologists Concerned About Albanian Separatism *[SRNA]* 20

POLAND

Poland: General on Formation of Polish-Ukrainian Battalion *[POLSKA ZBROJNA 24 Jul]* 21
Poland: Two Polls Differ on Support for Major Parties *[GAZETA WYBORCZA 25 Jul]* 21
Poland: TV Official Investigates Claims of Staff Links to Mafia *[Warsaw Radio]* 22

ROMANIA

Romania: Defense Minister on Problems in NATO 'Selection' *[CURIERUL NATIONAL 18 Jul]* 23
Romania: Spokesman Comments on Hungarian Statement, NATO *[Bucharest Radio]* 23
Romania: Melescanu Believes MFN Status 'Won' in Bucharest *[VOCEA ROMANIEI 22 Jul]* 24
Romania: Iliescu Explains Retraction of MFN Vote Comments *[Bucharest Radio]* 25

YUGOSLAVIA

Federal

FRY: Agreement Reached With Bosnia on Road, Rail, Air Links *[TANJUG]* 27
FRY: Opposition Parties To Meet 26 Jul To Form Election Bloc *[BETA]* 27
FRY: Refugees From Bosnia Urged To Vote in Bosnian Election *[TANJUG]* 27

Serbia

Serbia: Milosevic Called Dayton's 'Guardian of Peace' *[NASA BORBA 23 Jul]* 27
Serbia: SRS Leader Condemns Milosevic for Receiving Ganic *[BETA]* 28
Serbia: VRS Officers Reportedly Training in Army's Academy *[NASA BORBA 24 Jul]* 28

Albania: People's Assembly's Vote of Confidence Detailed

AU2507112196 Tirana ATA in English 1030 GMT 25 Jul 96

[By R. Floqi and A. Sakja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, July 24 (ATA)—The Albanian government, presided over by Premier Aleksander Meksi, received the Albanian parliament's vote of confidence on Wednesday evening.

By 113 votes for, one abstention and no vote against, the Albanian Parliament, in which the PD [Democratic Party] has the absolute majority with 122 seats, gave the vote of confidence to the government headed by Aleksander Meski and its programme for the country's development in the next four years.

"I hold the points of the government's programme comply with the aspirations of the Albanians who wish a free Albania, a rule of law and market economy and who want Albania finally in Europe," says Premier Aleskander Meksi.

"The new government will accomplish the PD four year programme which is an ambitious programme and charges us with great obligations to realise it," deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tritan Shehu said after the vote of confidence.

Albania's integration and Association in the European Union remains one of the key points of the new government's foreign policy, the chairman of the parliament's foreign policy commission, Genc Pollo, said in his address before the government's vote of confidence.

Interior Minister Halit Shamata defined the ways to fight crime, improve the structure of the interior Ministry and expand its public dimension.

Nine deputies of the Socialist Party, the major opposition party, did not participate in parliament and its only socialist deputy Sali Rexhepi abstained.

Deputies of other opposition parties, the Human Rights Union Party, the Republican Party and Balli Kombetar (National Front) despite remarks on the programme, approved it.

Albania: PS Bars Nano From Delivering Congress Report

AU2407201296 Tirana KOHA JONE in Albanian 24 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Enton Abilekaj: "Either Me or Nano in the Socialist Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The entire meeting of the Socialist Party [PS] General Management Committee has been recorded in a letter that was typed, badly, on an electric typewriter. By 1930 yesterday, the Socialist leaders had not released a single word to the press beyond a communique that some of the General Management Committee members called demagogy. According to the communique, Fatos Nano's surrender of the task of compiling the report for the congress had been accepted, and Servet Pellumbi was appointed in his place. The session that began at 1800 and was chaired by Pellumbi himself, who did not hesitate to apply the same method as that used to discuss the motion proposed by Party Chairman Nano. The deputy chairman proposed two alternative discussions, one on the labels used in the letter of the imprisoned chairman and on his own resignation. "If we discuss this we will waste time," Pellumbi advised, moving to the second item, in which he sought Nano's replacement as chairman of the working group compiling the congress report. "There cannot be two reports," was the personal stand taken by Pellumbi, who, in his capacity as chairman of the meeting, did not allow discussion, but moved immediately to the proposal: "Do you agree that Servet Pellumbi will chair the group?" The veteran's frank talk earned the votes of the majority of the General Management Committee, a majority which, just as on the day on which Nano's motion was ignored, later contested a vote it had already given.

When Pellumbi put forward for discussion Nano's proposal to deliver a personal report, most of the General Management Committee supported Nano's suggesting of making a report to the congress. Although proposed three times, it was not voted on.

Majko's proposal was that the imprisoned chairman should deliver the report to the congress. Paloka proposed that Nano should deliver a speech. Part of the presidium proposed as a solution that the party leader should screen the congress materials.

Paloka, a supporter of Hajdaraga, based his arguments on the principle that an individual report from the chairman would parallel that of the General Management Committee. Majko interrupted: "If Nano were to construct a parallel report or parallel structures, I would be the first to reject such a thing." He later accused: "It is not Nano in prison who is trying to split the party, but some of those outside prison who have flattered him in order to rise to official posts in the party." Dokle too, apparently impelled by the chairman's message, proposed to come out with an individual report himself as former chairman of the parliamentary group, although he was not elected by the congress.

However, like four years ago under Ramiz Alia, Dokle's candidature was forgotten, while Pellumbi declared threateningly before the voting: "If the variant of two

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

reports for the congress is approved, I will tender my resignation from the group for drafting the report of the General Management Committee." The idea of Nano's delivering an individual report was not put to the vote, but was implicitly included under proposal that a single report should be presented to the congress. This proposal carried, eliminating Nano without mentioning him at all. This put an end to the discussion, without clarifying how Nano will address the congress of the party of which he is chairman. A different conclusion was forecast, when Pellumbi last week, speaking at the General Management Committee of Tirana, mentioned the German precedent, in which Scharping and Lafontaine presented rival reports to the Social-Democratic Party Congress, and the best one was accepted. Despite Pellumbi's mention of this example last week, events were quite different yesterday.

The aggression against the imprisoned chairman reached its peak when Paloka proposed his removal as party chairman, now that he is no longer chairman of the working group. However, this proposal served only to avoid a direct vote on the chairman. So far, Nano has never been subjected directly to a vote by the PS General Management Committee. The "brass hats" have found a way of not clashing directly in a vote over Nano, by blocking such a thing. Just as the imprisoned PS chairman reported in his motion: "My messages and proposals are being blocked...."

Albania: Assembly Commission To Investigate 26 May Elections

AU2407084396 Tirana ATA in English 1928 GMT 23 Jul 96

[By A. Sakja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A permanent parliamentary commission will be created to investigate into the electoral law in the May 26, 1996 parliamentary elections and the violence exercised against opposition politicians in post-election rallies.

The proposal to include this on the agenda of the parliamentary procceedings was made by Parliament's speaker Pjeter Arbnori Tuesday after the meeting of the presidency with the chairmen of the parlimantary groups.

The chairman of the Democratic Party [PD] parliamentary group, Ali Spahia said in regard of this issue that: "a parliamentary group of the Council of Europe reccomended the Albanian newly-elected parliament to inquire into the violations of the electoral law in the May 26 elections and the violence against opposition politicians during post elections rallies."

It is about the May 28 rally held by the PS [Socialist Party] and other minor parties of the left oppostion to protest the Sunday election results and which was forcibly dismissed by the police, which had considered its holding "illegal."

As regards the socialists' non-participation in this commission, Foreign Minister Tritan Shehu said that "Our duty is to create the commission. It is up to them if they take part or not."

Upon Spahia's proposal, after his consultation with representatives of other parliament participant parties, the deputies agreed that the commission be made up of seven people, including deputies of the Democratic Party, Socialist Party, the Human Rights Union Party and Balli Kombetar (National Front) Party.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bulgaria: President Warned About Plot To Destroy Dams

AU2407135496 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Valentin Konev, chief of the Dams Authority at the National Electricity Company, informed President Zhelev that, I quote, powerful forces in Bulgaria are interested in destroying the major dams. Mr. Konev submitted the relevant documents to the president. He says that those documents support his claim.

President Zhelev said that he will study the documents and express his position.

According to Valentin Konev, the dams must be administrated by a strictly specialized organization, rather than by accidental companies and persons. He suspects that political interests are involved in certain dams, and cited mainly two dams—Dospat and Kurdzhali.

Valentin Konev said that the game with the dams is a dangerous one, and it could have unforeseeable consequence for our country. Asked about the source of the political pressure, he said that he assumes that those are people from the Council of Ministers apparatus.

Valentin Konev has informed representatives of all political forces about his concerns. He also informed the Ministry of Internal Affairs that there have been attempts on his life and the life of his driver, and that recently an unknown telephone terrorist is bothering him in his home.

Bulgaria: BSP Council Reaffirms Support for Pirinski

AU2507073496 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0600 GMT 25 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] ended its meeting late last night. The council adopted a political resolution of the BSP that states that the BSP Supreme Council confirms its support for the candidacies of Georgi Pirinski and Ivan Marazov in the presidential elections and calls upon citizens to support them under the general motto of their campaign—Together for Bulgaria—with the goal of unifying the nation, strengthening statehood, and overcoming the serious socioeconomic crisis.

The BSP Supreme Council stresses that the Constitutional Court's decision is aimed at restricting the citizens' freedom of choice to support the BSP candidate, who, under Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution, is a Bulgarian citizen by birth.

It is necessary for the BSP Supreme Council to reaffirm the party's will to defend the constitutional rights of every elector and the candidates of the Left, presidential candidate Georgi Pirinski told BTA. It appears to me that the situation in the country is sufficiently complex and strained already, and the Constitutional Court's decision, which falls outside its prerogatives, adds to the tension between the institutions and in society, Mr. Pirinski said.

At 1200 today, Georgi Pirinski and Ivan Marazov will give a news conference in the National Palace of Culture in Sofia.

Bulgaria: Commentary Examines BSP Reaction to Court Ruling

AU2507122596 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 25 Jul 96 p 9

[Commentary by Valeriya Veleva: "Opposition Stands To Benefit If BSP Keeps Its Candidate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional Court's decision that legally blocks Georgi Pirinski's road to the presidential election contest threw the Left into a tremendous uproar that threatens to undermine its political foundations. The Socialists are perplexed, because they have nobody to complain to who is higher than the Constitutional Court. The first political reaction from BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] headquarters was that the decision is a political one that requires a political response. However, what will this answer be, given that it has to be both a politically winning move and worthy on ethical grounds? The BSP needed almost 30 hours to choose one of three possible alternatives.

The first of these was for the BSP Supreme Council to review its decision and withdraw its presidential election tandem of Pirinski and Marazov. This is what its coalition partners from the Ecoglasnost Political Club and the Aleksandur Stamboliyski Bulgarian National Agrarian Union wanted, as did the deputies of the Nationwide Committee for Defense of National Interests. According to reports, at the midnight meeting of the Democratic Left Parliamentary Group on the night of 23 and 24 July, BSP deputies Zlatimir Orsov and Mariana Khristova, who is a member of the BSP Executive Bureau, also advocated finding a replacement for Pirinski. Georgi Bliznashki was reportedly adamant that Pirinski cannot run. Yordan Shkolagerski reportedly made a brilliant plea in defense of the institutions, pointing out the need for politics to bow to the laws of justice. However, to the strategists at party headquarters, this move smacks of "abdication." It would lead to a political rout of the Left that would undermine the government's shaky foundations. Premyanov opposes such

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a decision. In his view, Pirinski is also needed for the battle that has started against the handful of "marginalized" leaders of the OSD [Alliance for Social Democracy], who at this very juncture decided to overthrow the cabinet. Retreat is also unacceptable for Videnov, who will find it difficult to explain to the electorate his personal responsibility for the incorrect political decision. Some deputies suspect that the BSP chairman will launch Pirinski into the vortex of the scandal at any cost to finally eliminate him. The BSP has got itself into a situation in which "one person tries to overtrump the other," a top Socialist leader admitted yesterday.

The second alternative was for Pirinski to withdraw from the campaign himself and save his party's honor. This proposal came from lady deputies who wanted at long last to see someone "act like a man" in our political life. In such an event, the Left would find it easy to decide on a new presidential tandem. However, the fear emerged that the "reserve" candidate would dictate the terms for his or her nomination, which would make the BSP dependent on someone. People familiar with Pirinski's character swear that he will never retreat from his positions, and he declared this himself yesterday. The foreign minister had warned his colleagues quite some time ago that he was not sure of the perfect legitimacy of his citizenship, and thus left others to assume responsibility. It would be illogical for him to pull the chestnuts out of the fire now. Pirinski accepted the blow dealt him by fate in the deaths of the three women deputies; he displayed manliness and force of character. Why should he retreat now?

There remained a third possibility, for the BSP Supreme Council to reconfirm its decision and not withdraw its candidates. The Left displayed strength and defended its own decisions, which were dictated by party interest. However, the opposition is already threatening to declare that the BSP does not conform to the requirements of the Constitution. The response from BSP headquarters will be that once the top judges act by political means, the party will do the same. This will fan public opinion in the country to white heat, and SDS headquarters will be inclined to launch an attack on its opponent as not conforming to the Constitution. However, will Petur Stoyanov be happy with this situation? In his view, his opponent Pirinski is "a typical representative of the BSP," and only a victory won against him would be sweet. Without Pirinski, it would be better to have no elections, people from the right are saying. If the Left's candidate leaps the hurdle of the Central Electoral Commission, overcomes the Supreme Court, and wins trust in such difficult circumstances, the Constitutional Court is hardly likely to venture to invalidate the national vote. If this nevertheless happens, the rulers will ignore the judges' decision and forcibly remove Zhelev from 2 Dondukov Street [address of Presidency], a source in the BSP stated in confidence. Since the third alternative suits everyone, it became a saving move for the BSP. The judges missed the opportunity to reach a wise decision, which was to split their votes six to six and thus adopt no decision at all. Some people in opposition circles are already regretting that they allowed the Constitutional Court to resolve the political dispute in the country.

Bulgaria: Pavlov on Loss of Army Radio Frequencies

AU2207173696 Sofia 24 CHASA in Bulgarian 19 Jul 96 p 2

[Interview with Bulgarian Defense Minister Dimitur Pavlov by unidentified 24 CHASA representative; place and date not given: "We Jealously Guard Our Frequencies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [24 CHASA] Mr. Pavlov, what is your view on the suggestion by Nikolay Minkov, head of the Concessions Department at the Council of Ministers, that the range of military radio frequencies should be narrowed?

[Pavlov] I am concerned about this. More frequencies allow us greater maneuverability, and their limitation will be of no benefit. However, at the same time we have to consider national interests.

[24 CHASA] Could this affect the army's combat readiness?

[Pavlov] We will do our utmost to prevent any loss of security and reliability in our communications.

[24 CHASA] Which frequencies precisely do they want to take away from you?

[Pavlov] Frequencies in the 900 megahertz range. These are used by mobile telephones.

[24 CHASA] A report has been leaked that you will again sign the contract with Super Security Services, under which military frequencies were handed over to private companies. Is this true?

[Pavlov] I have not received any information of this kind. When it happens I will comment.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Republic: Minority Parties Agree Not To Back Government

LD2407144096 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The debate on the policy statement of the new government is still continuing in the Chamber of Deputies. Milada Richterova reports live:

[Richterova] Most of the speakers in the afternoon debate on the government statement were from the Republican and the Communist Party.

Having subjected the government's document to strong criticism, the representatives of these two opposition parties unanimously agreed they would not back the minority government. [passage omitted]

Czech Republic: Chamber Ends Debate on Policy Statement

LD2507100196 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 0900 GMT 25 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Czech Chamber of Deputies ended its debate on the government policy statement a few minutes ago. Vladimir Hruby reports:

[Hruby] When the long debate ended, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus addressed the deputies. In his short speech he thanked them for the whole debate.

[Begin Klaus recording] We tried to differentiate between speeches that can help us in our work in the future—if we get your confidence—and those which amounted to a mere verbal exercise in front of television cameras. We are slightly upset that there was too much of the latter and less of the former. I would still like to express my appreciation for the speeches of the opposition deputies, or the parts of their speeches in which they were able to identify themselves with the government policy statement or parts of it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Czech Republic: CSSD To Give 'Chance' to Minority Government

LD2507101796 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 0936 GMT 25 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning to you from our studio at the Czech Chamber of Deputies. I would like to say that the chairmen of legislative groups are advising the plenum on the voting intentions of their members in the vote of confidence in the government. Speakers so far were Josef Borak from the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party, who said his party will vote for the minority government. Ivan Masek from the Civic Democratic Alliance said he is for the minority government. Vojtech Filip from the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia said he is resolutely against. Republican Party Chairman Miroslav Sladek said the same.

Stanislav Gross [chairman of the Czech Social Democratic Party] has just spoken. He managed to tell everybody that the CSSD is unable to form a majority government, that the CSSD is aware of this, and this party's club has therefore decided to give a chance to the minority government. So, as the situation stands now, it will display tolerance during the vote and this government will survive.

Czech Republic: Klaus Thanks Deputies for Confidence Vote

LD2507115196 Prague CT 1 Television Network in Czech 1034 GMT 25 Jul 96

[Statement by Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus at a session of the Czech Chamber of Deputies—live relay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Chamber of Deputies: Allow me to thank you very briefly, on behalf of the government, for the vote of confidence. We appreciate it. We do not regard it as purely a formal issue, and we are prepared to begin our work immediately.

We are aware that the task we have undertaken is not easy. We know that we have shouldered a heavy burden. We know it will not be easy. Nevertheless, we are ready to implement our government statement, the statement which was submitted and discussed here. We are ready to start our work immediately—and when I say immediately, I have in mind this very day, today, this afternoon.

I believe that the government that won your confidence today will work well. I believe the citizens of our country will have a chance to realize their life dreams and ideals in this election period, and I believe that this government will create appropriate conditions for this.

So, thank you once again. I can promise that we will get on with our work. [applause]

Czech Republic: U.S. Military Aid for NATO Enlargement Welcomed

LD2507094596 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 0500 GMT 25 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense and Foreign Ministries welcome the decision by the U.S. House of Representatives to release $60 million in military aid to Prague, Budapest, and Warsaw to fund their preparations for NATO entry.

The Defense Ministry's spokesman, Vit Kurfuerst, said that the move confirmed that the debate on the enlargement of the alliance had already reached technical issues stage.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hungary: Official Views Compensation Claims for IFOR Damage

AU2407124296 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 24 Jul 96 p 3

[Interview with Attila Pokos, chief counselor at the Somogy County Administration Office, by Emoke Rathonyi; place and date not given: "How Much Damage Was Caused in Taszar?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Taszar's inhabitants are demanding some 70 million forints in damages because the Implementation Force's carriers transporting military vehicles have caused serious damage to the buildings of the village. Attila Pokos, chief counselor at the Somogy County Administration Office, said that a large number of the claims for damages are justified, and that IFOR [Implementation Force] and the Hungarian state will pay the compensation in September at the earliest.

[Pokos] Much of the damage has been caused by transporters carrying military vehicles. The massive carriers have damaged the road surface in many places, and the walls of houses have also cracked because of the vibration. Some lamp posts have also been knocked down, and some new crops were squashed by vehicles. Some of the damage has already been repaired by the owners, but IFOR has not yet paid for the cost of the repair.

[Rathonyi] How many people have made claims?

[Pokos] Altogether, 340 people. Our experts have also examined the damage and found that a large number of the claims were justified. Taszar's inhabitants will receive 60 to 70 percent of the requested sums.

[Rathonyi] Will IFOR pay for the whole amount?

[Pokos] No, because some of the damage was not caused by the Americans. Hungarian entrepreneurs working on IFOR commissions have also done some damage to the buildings. This part of the compensation will be paid by the Hungarian Government in full. In the case of some sick pensioners, the bureaucratic side of the repairs will also be done by the local authority.

[Rathonyi] Why do they have to wait until the end of the summer for the compensation?

[Pokos] The Americans will also have the damage examined by their own experts. It takes a long time for them to examine the 340 documents, and this is why the claimants cannot get their money before September.

[Rathonyi] Are the Taszar people angry with the Americans?

[Pokos] We have done a survey on feelings, and this shows that they are not. The population can accept that the presence of the Americans also means inconveniences. In the long run, they will actually be better off because they can build brand new road surfaces and a new sewage system from the compensation.

Hungary: Foreign Ministry Not To Respond to Conference Results

AU2407163696 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 24 Jul 96 p 22

[Report by "(ik)" and TASR: "Szentivanyi: Only Through the Usual Channels on the Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Budapest—Hungarian diplomacy has not undertaken and is not planning to undertake any special international political measures in connection with the conclusions reached during the recent Hungary and Hungarians Living Abroad conference in Budapest, Gabor Szentivanyi, spokesman for the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, told PRAVDA on Tuesday.

U.S. State Department Spokesman Nick Burns said on Monday that talks had been held between the U.S. and Hungarian Governments on the aforementioned conference. "Nick Burns did not say anything else, only that this was one of the subjects discussed during the meetings between the two countries. That is really the case. There was also an exchange of information on this matter through the usual diplomatic channels. However, no special steps have been taken," declared G. Szentivanyi.

According to the spokesman, Hungarian diplomacy is providing information on the aforementioned conference through its representative offices and is not contemplating future official discussions at a higher level.

In reply to a question on the U.S. reaction to the conclusions of the Hungary and Hungarians Living Abroad conference, G. Szentivanyi said he is not aware of any official U.S. response. "It is not customary to publicize information on the contents of routine diplomatic meetings. Unless it is something important, it is not the habit of ordinary diplomatic work to issue comments," added the spokesman. "If these exchanges of information were to result in something from which it would be possible to draw certain substantial conclusions, then I imagine we would inform the public," said G. Szentivanyi.

The information made public by N. Burns on Monday that U.S.-Hungarian intergovernmental talks had been held on the aforementioned conference was also confirmed to a TASR correspondent in Budapest on Tuesday by Philip Reeker, the press attache at the U.S. Embassy in Hungary. The diplomat refused to give any details on the location and date of the talks or on the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

level at which they were held. Nevertheless, he did emphasize the U.S. interest in resolving the minority issue and in the fulfillment of the Slovak-Hungarian basic interstate treaty. He also expressed the readiness of the United States to assist in these matters.

Hungary: KDNP Rejects Slovak Party's 'Provocative' Campaign

LD2407164696 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP] Romanian-Hungarian and Slovak-Hungarian relations have deteriorated and, as a result of this, the situation of Hungarian communities living there has also become more difficult. Katalin Horvath reports on the party's press briefing:

[Horvath] KDNP Deputy Chairman Laszlo Surjan thinks the Hungarian Government should reject the Slovak National Party's provocative slogans; namely, the statement that the Hungarian tribes that broke into the Carpathian basin 1100 years ago ruined the culture thriving here. This anti-Hungarian hysteria-mongering and almost vulgar style is intolerable.

The Hungarian Government's smile diplomacy does not seem to work, the KDNP deputy chairman responsible for foreign affairs said. He thinks the Hungarian National Assembly's foreign affairs committee should not go to the meeting, which is scheduled to take place in two day's time with the Slovak legislature's foreign affairs committee. Diplomatic relations between the two parliamentary committees should be frozen for a while.

The Hungarian Government, however, should get prepared for calm, well-considered talks in the interest of Slovak-Hungarian relations. The Hungarian Government should firmly stress that it is not thinking along the lines of border issues, but of the peaceful coexistence of the nations living in the Carpathian basin, Surjan said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Ganic Views Achievements of Belgrade Discussions

LD2407200296 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After a two-day visit to Belgrade, the state delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina arrived at Sarajevo airport at 1840.

[Begin recording] [Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation Vice President Ejup Ganic] We went to Belgrade not to obtain amnesty for anyone, but to say that responsibility is a separate road. We went to open this new road. We achieved three major things. Visas were abolished between the two states, that is, the two foreign ministers signed a protocol making it possible for our citizens and their citizens to travel only with passports. With your passports, which bear the fleur-de-lis coat of arms, on them you can cross the border from tomorrow, you can land at Belgrade airport or at other airports in Yugoslavia. This is the first step.

Second, we signed a protocol on the opening of communications—postal communications as well as road, rail, and air traffic. It was signed by our deputy minister of international cooperation in telecommunications.

The third agreement we signed was the opening of trade offices of the two states. One will be in Belgrade and it will represent Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the other one in Sarajevo, representing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

With Milosevic and his assistants, we discussed the issue of missing persons. We are looking for a large number of our citizens. In fact, that was the first topic. We agreed that our commission in charge of missing persons will have regular meetings with theirs. Sandzak was the second topic in order of importance, and the position of Bosniaks as a whole. We agreed, and I obtained firm guarantees, that all political parties in Sandzak, especially those rallying the Bosniaks, will be given full freedom of political activity, participation in the elections.

[Unidentified journalist] What about the talks concerning the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations between the two states?

[Ganic] A great deal of time was spent on these talks, which were aimed at regulating border crossings. Finally, because of a number of unresolved issues and differing views, we agreed to abolish visas.

[Journalist] Was the name—the state delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina—used in the final document?

[Ganic] All the documents were signed in the name of the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [end recording]

B-H: Izetbegovic Opposes EU Withdrawal From Mostar

AU2507105696 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 0825 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (BETA)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic held talks with the EU ambassadors in Sarajevo and the representative of the U.S. Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina in light of the crisis in Mostar that emerged due to the nonparticipation of the representatives of the Croatian Democratic Union in the work of the municipal council.

As Sarajevo state radio reports today, Izetbegovic yesterday demanded an immediate action of the European Union and the United States and proposed measures that should be undertaken to resolve the crisis in this town.

He conveyed Bosnia-Herzegovina's stance to the Western diplomats that the EU withdrawal from Mostar would be the worst solution as this would mean "playing into the hands of those who are against a democratic outcome of the crisis and the Dayton accord."

B-H: EU's Legal Basis To Operate in Mostar Denied

LD2407151296 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is no longer any legal basis for the EU to operate in Mostar, and as a result, the Croat side is proposing an agreement that would overcome the current situation pending an official announcement of the results by the city electoral commission. If the Muslim side and EU Administrator Martin Garrod agree with this, the city would be administered on a temporary basis by a joint body. This was said, among other things, by the leaders of the Mostar Municipal Council and the city committee of the Croatian Democratic Union [HDZ]. Here is a report by Anton Mrkonjic:

[Mrkonjic] The Croatian side is ready to sign an EU document called Joint Action only when the final election results are announced by the city electoral commission which, according to the electoral law, is the only body that can do this.

In view of the fact that the conditions do not exist for the election of the mayor of Mostar—for this one-third of Croat votes are needed—the Croat side, as an interim compromise, is proposing the establishment of a joint body which, pending the official announcement of the June elections, would run Mostar.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mijo Brajkovic, the Croat mayor of Mostar, said the Croats are seeking only respect for the law and agreements, but these have been violated on several occasions to the disadvantage of one side. The cup has overflown in terms of the concessions we have made, and we can no longer accede to further harm being done to us, and if anyone wants to infringe the law again it will have to take the responsibility for this on itself.

According to Brajkovic, the post of mayor belongs to Croats because the HDZ obtained more votes than any of the three parties. As a result, one cannot talk of concessions being made to the other side.

Boro Puljic, vice chairman of the municipal council, reported on the powerful pressure exerted by EU officials Michael Steiner [Carl Bildt's deputy] and (Tom Bolster), who in the talks yesterday made ultimatum-style demands that the Joint Action document be signed. That would have been tantamount to silent recognition of the results announced by Perez Casado [former EU administrator in Mostar] in his decree, and consent to violation of the law, Puljic said.

It is indicative that not all Croat deputies received invitations to the constituent session of the city council; only one-third of them received such invitations, which indicates the desire yesterday to elect a mayor at all costs.

There is no longer any legal basis for the work of the EU in Mostar and this is why in the interim period the most realistic thing to do is set up a joint administration, Croat officials said. [passage omitted]

B-H: HDZ Party Leader on Preservation of Croats' Status

LD2407203096 Mostar Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The September elections are extremely important for the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Almost half of the 800,000-strong Croat population have been expelled from their homes. Here is Milan Vega:

[Begin recording] [Vega] Talking about the importance and the creation of the Croat Democratic Union [HDZ] at the decisive moment for the survival of the Croat nation and about the HDZ achievements, Bozo Rajic, chairman of the HDZ for Bosnia-Herzegovina, said:

[Rajic] The HDZ for Bosnia-Herzegovina has been advocating, and it is again advocating for all of the nations of Bosnia-Herzegovina—Croats, Bosniaks, Muslims [as heard], and Serbs—to form their relations freely by using the good offices of the international community and international arbiters, so that Bosnia-Herzegovina remains a complex state of equal and sovereign nations. For this reason, we have accepted in our fundamental stances [words indistinct], when we said that Bosnia-Herzegovina was our homeland, that it was our goal, that we had a right to it, but that the country could not be a unitary country, that it could not be a country with majority rule, and that it had to be a community of three equal nations that would agree on the system in their future state.

We were the first to talk about Bosnia-Herzegovina divided into cantons. Today, our policies are guaranteed by all agreements, from the Washington agreement, the Vienna agreement, the St. Petersburg agreement to the Dayton agreement, and all annexes; and the HDZ will do everything in its power to direct its members and to motivate the entire Croat population to achieve this goal, that is, the creation of Bosnia-Herzegovina as agreed upon under the auspices of the international community.

However, we must oppose all attempts to change the constitutional, legal, and social stands of the Croat nation in the federation and Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole. Such attempts exist, and this is an important task.

[Vega] About 400,000 Croats, that is almost half of the entire population, have been expelled from their homes. Regarding this, chairman Rajic said:

[Rajic] Our primary political, national, and moral task is to fight for the return of these people. So, we regard the federation as a goal because the federation opens up a possibility for people to return to their homes.

We can sum up our election slogans as: to preserve our achievements; to correctly fulfill obligations from the Dayton agreement on the Constitution of Bosnia-Herzegovina that concern the Croat people in Bosnia-Herzegovina; to preserve our equal sovereign status within Bosnia-Herzegovina while respecting interests of others who live here. As far as the elections are concerned, we are facing considerable difficulties, and this is a topic for a special program.

[Vega] Finally, it should be said that conditions for democratic and free elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina have not been created. This applies, above all, to the freedom of movement and the freedom of political gathering and activity. In particular, we are concerned about election rules that allow the so-called direction [usmeravanja] of voters at local levels, which leads to the majority nation ruling minorities. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Tuzla Mayor on Election, Interethnic Party

BR1607135896 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 18 Jul 96 p 82

[Interview with Bosnian Mayor of Tuzla Selim Beslagic by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The Tuzla Model Is the Only Hope"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Of the Bosnian democratic opposition candidates running for election, Selim Beslagic, mayor of Tuzla, is perhaps the one who can count on the broadest popular support. His interethnic party, the BUSD (Bosnian Union of Social Democrats) comprises Muslims, Croats, and Serbs.*

[Correspondent] There are two months to go before the election, Mr. Mayor. What expectations does your party have?

[Beslagic] That the international community should do everything within its power to implement the Dayton settlements so that the election will be as democratic as possible.

[Correspondent] And what if it cannot?

[Beslagic] We will try to promote our platform all the same, and to gain access to the media, television in particular, and to establish direct contact with the voters. Of course, it is difficult to make any sort of forecast at the moment, because we lack what you Italians call the par condicio (equal media access for all parties), but in spite of everything, we think that the election is necessary.

[Correspondent] Does it not come too soon?

[Beslagic] We did not set the date ourselves, and we can definitely not postpone it, as it is being held with an eye to the U.S. election as well. Who can tell, perhaps it is a good thing.

[Correspondent] You are the opposition leader with the greatest following...

[Beslagic] That is what the others are saying too, perhaps because Tuzla is the only city in Bosnia where there was no ethnic conflict during the war, and where the ethnic parties lost the 1990 election. The fact remains that, for all this time, we in Tuzla have tried to get on with our lives regardless of our origins and party affiliations.

[Correspondent] But the ethnic parties are still winning in Bosnia...

[Beslagic] My impression is that the Tuzla model is making headway. Look at the Serbian sector: First there was only one party, the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] (Karadzic's party), but now there are over 20 fighting the election. That means that a few distinctions are being drawn, even among the Serbs.

[Correspondent] It was thought at first that you would be running with Silajdzic, but you are not. Why not?

[Beslagic] I have great regard for Silajdzic, and I have said that Bosnia did not have a real government before he took over. Indeed, when he left the SDA, I thought a coalition might be possible. Silajdzic had praised my work as well. But then he decided to run on his own. The decision was his alone. I could not leave my allies.

[Correspondent] The election is to be held despite the fact that the civilian aspect of the Dayton settlements, concerning, among other things, free movement within the republic, has not been implemented. What do you think of the job done by Carl Bildt, who is in charge of these aspects?

[Beslagic] Mr. Bildt comes from Sweden, which is a great democratic country. Sadly, I have to say that his notion of democracy is colored by the fact that there have been no wars in Sweden for 200 years, and that that notion cannot simply be transplanted as it stands into the Bosnia of today. He believes in all the promises they make him, starting with those made by Karadzic, who also promised him a year ago that Srebrenica would not be touched... You see, the road to hell is always paved with good intentions, and Bildt is full of good intentions. But he is not the only one. All the international officials here seem to fall in solely with the suggestions made by the ethnic parties in power.

[Correspondent] Some people claim that the citizens of Bosnia, whether Serbs, Muslims, or Croats, would now prefer to live separately, but in peace...

[Beslagic] That is not true. Bosnia, as a country, has existed for 1,000 years, and it has always been inhabited by different nationalities. This used to be the normal Bosnian situation. The theory that they can no longer live side by side is false and denies the historical evidence. Look at this war as well: It has proven that every attempt to pull out these roots gives rise to enormous tragedies.

B-H: Federation Minister Assesses Public Safety

AU2407152796 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Jul 96 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Avdo Hebib, internal affairs minister of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Izabela Kisic; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We met with Avdo Hebib, internal affairs minister of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, at a session of the Serb Citizens Council

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at the Holiday Inn in Sarajevo, where he was an invited guest. The head of the Bosnian police force is a psychologist by vocation. He was appointed to his present position in February, and during the war he was the deputy minister.

"It was my duty to conduct the entire process of reintegrating Sarajevo. On behalf of myself and the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, I guaranteed the safety of the lives and properties of Serbs who remained in the reintegrated area. During that entire time, despite the problems we had in the 150 days after the reintegration, there were only 315 violations of the law. In more than 160 cases, the perpetrators were brought to justice, while the others are still being investigated," Avdo Hebib told NASA BORBA in an exclusive interview.

[Kisic] Do those numbers mean that peace as well as law and order are finally returning after four years of war?

[Hebib] If we view the number of violations on a daily basis, we see that there were two per day. If you listen to reports from even the most peaceful cities in the world, you will see how many crimes are committed every day.

These figures represent the entire reintegrated area of five town municipalities that make up a very large area. The environment is entirely rural, and we could not have down any more with the existing number of police officers.

[Kisic] Nevertheless, there was a murder in one of the reintegrated municipalities.

[Hebib] Yes, a few days ago there was a murder, and we are in hot pursuit of the killer. The case has no political implications. We discovered two cases of attempted murder, and the perpetrators were tried. The others were mostly ordinary cases of robbery and breaking and entering of abandoned houses, usually committed by people who did not have a place to live, who had arrived from collective centers.

[Kisic] Are you satisfied with the work of the police in this relatively short period since the end of the war?

[Hebib] I am not satisfied with the way things are. I wish there had not been a single crime, because it was I who stood before the Serb people who stayed behind. Unfortunately, attempts have been made on all sides to create an unfavorable psychological atmosphere toward the Serb citizens to make them leave this area. We have information that individuals from Pale come here to foment dissent and anxiety among the citizens and to create an atmosphere of fear and tension.

All Serbs who have not bloodied their hands may come here freely. Nothing bad has happened to a single person so far, and I hope it will stay that way. Those who are guilty will answer for their crimes, wherever they may be.

I Separate Police fRom Politics

[Kisic] With what other aspects of your previous work are you dissatisfied?

[Hebib] Since I became minister, we have not had a single armed conflict with the police of any of the other entities. Since the lines of separation are now patrolled by police, there is contact between them, and in those contacts the police from all sides are behaving correctly, like true professionals.

I am unsatisfied because the police in the Serb entity and in the part under the control of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] are being influenced much more by politics than the police in the part controlled by the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I try to separate police work from politics. I think the police should deal with professional affairs. In the part controlled by the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, any case being investigated and any offender being brought to trial is my responsibility, while in the Serb entity they often say that offenders are irresponsible people who cannot be controlled. We also get such replies from the Croat side.

[Kisic] You mentioned contacts between the police of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serb entity. What are these contacts like?

[Hebib] I do not think they are very sincere on either side. A few days ago, the director of Radio-Television Bosnia-Herzegovina told me that she had been in Banja Luka recently and was amazed at the high level of professionalism of the Banja Luka police and that she had felt very safe. That is very nice to hear, but at the same time, it is confirmation of my view that if the authorities want to command the police, they can do it. For the police, there can be no irresponsible groups.

[Kisic] What is the biggest problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina as far as the security of citizens is concerned?

[Hebib] The problem is safety of movement in all areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina, both in the Serb entity and in the Federation. There are cases of classic highway robbery; people are stopped and robbed. That is particularly the case in the Serb entity on the road to Brcko, the area known as "Arizona," because the traffic there is very heavy. Attacks are also frequent on the Sarajevo-Pale-Sokolac-Rogatica road, where buses are often stoned. These actions are organized and do not reflect the wishes of the citizens.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kisic] Do you know who is organizing it?

[Hebib] We often work with representatives of the Serb entity in Carl Bildt's headquarters and in his committee for civilian affairs, and we exchange experiences. I warned my Serb colleagues that this was part of an organized campaign, and they had no arguments against it, because preventing freedom of movement in Bosnia-Herzegovina was still a political decision. In areas where there are no organized groups, people can move about normally. In areas controlled by the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, there are fewer vehicles than in the Serb entity, but in spite of that fact, we have not had any similar incidents.

Problems With License Plates

[Kisic] People say that until a few months ago, cars with Bijeljina license plates were able to go to Tuzla freely. Is that true?

[Hebib] I have always warned--and I still do—that vehicles with license plates from the Serb entity with two S's (Serb Sarajevo) are not completely safe. I would like to advise such vehicles against going through Federation territory because we cannot guarantee their complete safety. As for vehicles with Belgrade license plates or plates from anywhere in Serbia, we have not had a single incident. I know that such vehicles have come through, and they all circulated freely and safely in Sarajevo as well as on the roads. The license plates problem is one we are attempting to resolve. I keep insisting that we make unique plates for Bosnia-Herzegovina, with a letter to designate the region, but without a state emblem. Representatives of the Serb entity, however, do not accept that. We even asked them to propose an emblem.

[Kisic] How do they behave in the Serb entity toward Bosniaks who want to visit their homes?

[Hebib] That is another burning issue. We work out an agreement for citizens to visit their homes freely, but when they go they are met by organized groups who throw stones at them or use some other methods.

[Kisic] Is it a secret how many policemen the Federation has?

[Hebib] It is and it isn't, because we still have not determined the exact number of policemen. We are determining that number together with the international police forces. We will also set new standards, because they require that of us. They promised us, however, that we could add policemen in areas where security was weaker, mainly in the zones of separation.

[Kisic] What is the ethnic structure of the Federation police?

[Hebib] In the part controlled by the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, there are both Serbs and Croats. In the Serb entity, there are no Bosniak policemen. In the area controlled by the HVO, there are very few Bosniaks in the Mostar police. We are about to reintegrate the police forces of the Bosniaks and the Croats, and we will have the first united police forces in a month. We have made our uniforms conform to the symbols of the cantonal police until an emblem is approved. We signed an agreement that the police force would be composed according to the ethnic structure that existed in 1991. We will have some problems with that, because in certain places we will not have Serb policemen (Grahovo, Drvar, Bosanski Petrovac). Until they return, we will have to put Croats and Bosniaks in their place.

War Criminals

[Kisic] Why is there still a curfew?

[Hebib] It is the result of a state of war, a time of direct threat of war. When the direct threat of war no longer exists, when that decision is made by the Presidency, I will analyze the security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and propose either an extension or cancellation of the curfew.

[Kisic] So that means the threat of war still exists?

[Hebib] Formally and legally, yes.

[Kisic] Is the war over?

[Hebib] It is not over until I can safely sit drive my car up to Zvornik, Vlasenica, or Bijeljina, and directly via Zvornik to Belgrade and back, either by day or night. The fighting has ended; no one can tell whether it will start again.

[Kisic] To what extent is the Bosnia-Herzegovina police force engaged in chasing and catching war criminals?

[Hebib] We have substantiated evidence on most of the war crimes committed on all sides. We are keeping an eye on the movement of the perpetrators. We recently arrested three Croats who were charged with war crimes.

[Kisic] Do you have any practical advice for Serbs who want to return to the area under the control of the Federation?

[Hebib] I think that all Serbs who wish to return and who have not bloodied their hands may return safely. I would advise them, however, first to make the initial contact with their friends who have remained in these areas to see if their apartments or houses are still available. Once they return, I do not think they should have any problems.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kisic] Do you have any information that the authorities in Pale are preventing people from returning to areas under the control of the Federation?

[Hebib] Individuals who come here tell us they have had problems on the Serb side. However, the fact that there is a regular bus line means they can come. I cannot say what an injustice it is to make all people equally guilty. They are not all guilty. Someone who has been banished from his home is not guilty. I tried to stop the Serbs from leaving the reintegrated areas. They had to do this, not because of us, but because of the Pale police.

My message is that people should take care of each other, they should not fall for political fabrications that can lead them to destruction. In this war we are all losers. I hope this never happens again.

[Box, p 2]

Calculations Around Brcko

If Brcko does not become a town of all those who once lived there, any other solution will be imposed. It will not guarantee freedom for citizens and every other facet of normal life. I believe conditions must be created for all former citizens of Brcko to return. That depends primarily on the international community. There are many calculations. I do not know what political games are being played and what kind of secret policies are being conducted.

[Box, p 2]

Conditions Do Not Exist for Fair Elections

Asked what he expects from the elections, Hebib says he personally believes that the time has not yet come for elections because not even the minimum conditions exist for holding fair elections. "In our country, in this state of neither war nor peace, with 2 million refugees scattered over more than 110 countries, I really have to ask myself what the objective conditions are for elections.

"On what basis will we make even the simplest list of voters when, for example, more than 80 citizens of Srebrenica have no identity documents?! And not only Srebrenica and Zepa, but many other towns.

"I attended the elections in Mostar. The voting lists did not include the names of citizens who did not move from their homes since 1991. And when you have that happening in such a small area, how will it be possible to create conditions for banished and homeless people without identification to vote? How do you organize the voting of 2 million people from Greenland to New Zealand!? By what organization and technology will this be possible," the minister for internal affairs asks himself.

[Box, p 2]

Personal Tragedy

Minister Hebib does not differentiate among war criminals of Serb, Croat, or Muslim ethnicity. "I, too, am a victim of criminals. They killed my son. But to make the tragedy worse, the criminals were from among his own people," Hebib said.

B-H: Bildt Resignation Over Stance on Karadzic Suggested

AU2507082596 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE (Bosnian) in Serbo-Croatian 23 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Am. Kebo: "Will Bildt Resign?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will Carl Bildt, the high representative of the international community, resign from that position after the wrong political evaluations that he uttered publicly before Karadzic withdrew from the function of president of the SDS [Serbian Democratic Party]?

Qualifying Karadzic's remaining in that post as his "private matter," he saw no reason for the SDS not to stay in the election race while being led by a person accused of war crimes.

Yesterday, we posed the question about the possibility of Bildt's resignation to the spokesman of his office, Mr. Duncan Bullivant.

"Bildt has absolutely no intention of resigning. The opinion of the high representative is still that the function of SDS president is a private matter of Radovan Karadzic, although we do not exclude the possibility of his influence on the peace process," Bullivant says.

However, to our remark that such opinion of Carl Bildt now, after Karadzic's withdrawal has been signed, is completely different than that of the international community, since Richard Holbrooke forced him to withdraw, Bullivant says that it is obvious that "Carl Bildt has an opinion contrary to others" and that the office welcomed Karadzic's resignation, Karadzic being an accused war criminal.

Is Bildt's firm attitude about Karadzic also reflected in the claim of his adviser and spokesman, Colum Murphy, namely that he (Karadzic), as a private citizen, can appeal to people to vote for the SDS and that election posters with his face should not be removed from the Serbian Republic?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

OSLOBODJENJE has discovered unofficially from the diplomatic circles in Sarajevo that, last week, on Wednesday evening, Carl Bildt sent a letter to the ministers of foreign affairs of all 16 [as published] countries of the European Union, in which he expressed his opposition to Holbrooke's efforts to remove Karadzic from the post of SDS president. He expressed his opinion that this could endanger the peace process and make the September elections impossible.

The letter was allegedly sent on Wednesday evening (17 July), to be delivered to all ministers of foreign affairs on Thursday morning, which, as OSLOBODJENJE has discovered, provoked real panic in the diplomatic circles of the European Union. Practically, it was sent only 36 hours before Holbrooke managed to get the compliance of Serb leaders in Belgrade and Pale on Karadzic's removal from all posts and from public life. It confirms his completely wrong political evaluations and questions the qualifications of Carl Bildt to perform the work he was appointed to do. After he sent that letter, on Thursday, as we have found out, he went to the Adriatic coast on vacation.

In our wish to get official confirmation about that letter, we turned to the French Embassy in Sarajevo, whose representative for public relations, Guillaume Bazard, said that we should ask Bildt's office for that information. Jim Hutchinson from the U.S. Embassy told us that it was the first he had heard about that letter and that he could not comment. Valentin Inzko, Austrian ambassador in Sarajevo, could not confirm or deny the existence of such a letter. "In any case, it was not sent through my embassy," he said.

B-H: Plavsic Questions Holbrooke's Role as Mediator

LD2407163896 Belgrade FONET in Serbo-Croatian 1432 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Banja Luka, 24 Jul (FONET)—Dr. Biljana Plavsic, acting president of the Bosnian Serb Republic, said in Banja Luka today that the latest pressure on the leaders of the Bosnian Serb Republic, which resulted in the removal of Radovan Karadzic from political life, were "unexpected" because of the fact that the Serb side has been cooperating well with the international community in implementing the Dayton agreement, Liljana Kovacevic reports for FONET.

In a conversation with this correspondent, Plavsic said the leadership of the Serb Republic took the view that all the troubles and difficulties facing the Serb people should be removed and that out of all this what emerged was "the initiative and cooperativeness of Dr. Karadzic, who on this occasion too, demonstrated that for him the interests of the state and people were above his own personal, political interests," she said.

Commenting on the indications that U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke could set off once again on a Balkan tour with the aim of obtaining the extradition of [former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan] Karadzic to the Hague tribunal, Plavsic said it was "incomprehensible that Holbrooke should appear as a mediator when Bildt and Frowick are responsible for the implementation of the Dayton peace agreement."

When asked about the forthcoming arbitration for the town of Brcko, the acting Serb Republic president said she hoped that the arbitration commission would not be a political body like the Hague tribunal, expressing confidence in the professionalism of Roberts Owen, the third member of the arbitration team, besides the representatives of the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat federation.

"Brcko has never been a matter of dispute," Plavsic said, recalling the Dayton agreement which, according to her, envisages the [word indistinct] line as the subject of arbitration and not the town of Brcko itself.

B-H: General Sees 'Victims,' Conflict If Mladic Arrested

BR2307140496 Madrid ABC in Spanish 22 Jul 96 p 26

[Report on interview with General Novak Milosevic, adjutant to leader of the Serb Republic Army, by unidentified reporter in Trebinje; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Trebinje (Bosnia-Herzegovina)—General Novak Milosevic is a military veteran who has spent the last five years in the battlefields, where he was on the front line in the Bosnian Serb Army and in combat. In the view of this adjutant to the leader of the Herzegovina Army [as published] and that Army's number two man, any attempt by NATO to arrest General Mladic "would mean victims and, probably, confrontation."

[Reporter] What opinion does your Army have of the Dayton Agreement?

[Milosevic] The Serb Republic's [RS] Army has responsibly implemented the military part of the Dayton agreement. Every activity has been carried through according to the plan, and in collaboration with IFOR. At the same time, it was in a much more complicated situation than the Croatian or Muslim Army, because it had to move from urban zones (Sarajevo) to territories without any developed infrastructure (barracks, magazines). Morally, the Army wanted a fair agreement, but

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

every fighter took very badly the loss of the Serbian part of Sarajevo, as well as the Serbian parts of Western Bosnia and Southern Herzegovina. We all felt bad about the post-Dayton unilateral correction of the borders between entities.

[Reporter] How do you assess the contribution and the work done by the Spanish troops deployed in the Balkans?

[Milosevic] Since the arrival of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] in Herzegovina, I have worked directly with the commanders and other members of SPABAT [Spanish Battalion]. I think we quickly managed to change the prejudices caused by the cruel anti-Serb campaign. The Spanish officers met a people who were completely different (the exact opposite of the people painted as demons by the media), and in them we found fair collaborators who are sincerely trying to make a contribution to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They undoubtedly helped reduce tension between the parties involved in the conflict by organizing multiethnic meetings, especially meetings to exchange prisoners of war and the dead. Although it makes me a bit uncomfortable, I have to say that the involvement of two Spanish NATO airplanes in the bombing of Serbian infrastructure left a black mark on the Spanish Army and the Spanish people.

The Spanish Contingent

[Reporter] To what do you attribute the fact that the Spanish contingent is the only one which maintains relations with and detachments in the areas of the three parties involved in the conflict?

[Milosevic] The Spanish contingent is deployed in the most ethnically complex territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Within this relatively small territory live, in equal proportion, three religions, some of which are expansionist or even militant. In addition, the people in this region are full of energy, of which extremists of all types take advantage. For this reason, the Spanish contingent did not find it easy to establish contact with the three parties or to set up bases on the territory of the two (three) entities. They were helped by the fact that, like the Serbs, they are sensitive, emotive people who understand human suffering. But, even more importantly, I think that Spain's tolerant policy made it possible for them to act impartially in the peace mission.

[Reporter] The NATO commander and the other members of the IFOR mission refuse to maintain contact with General Ratko Mladic, who is accused of war crimes by the International War Crimes Tribunal [IWCT] in The Hague. How does this affect relations with the IFOR military commander?

[Milosevic] General Mladic has authorized General Tolimir to cooperate with the ARCC [expansion unknown]. The NATO and IFOR commanders agreed to General Tolimir as the legitimate representative of the staff. I do not see any problem with how the relations between these two high commands are working—within the powers given to the NATO command by the Dayton Agreement, of course. The IWCT looks like an invented legal institution based on political principles and encouraged mainly to point fingers at the Serb people.

[Reporter] If NATO units were to arrest General Mladic, what would your reaction be?

[Milosevic] I do not think that it is the mission of the IFOR units to arrest anybody, and thus not General Mladic. The IFOR commanders have said as much. If IFOR units were to undertake an action of this kind, they would be acting outside their powers, which would mean that General Mladic's security service could take armed action. Undoubtedly, that would mean victims and, probably, a much bigger confrontation with unpredictable consequences.

[Reporter] What do you think will be the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina? Who do the Serbs get along with better, the Croats or the Muslims?

[Milosevic] The international powers are trying to keep Bosnia and Herzegovina unified in order to justify their hasty recognition [of it]. If, in recognizing the secessionist republics of Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia, they thought that the people in those republics could no longer live together in Yugoslavia, it sounds absurd to say that the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims can live together in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this century alone, these peoples have fought against each other in three wars. During World War II, more than 1 million Serbs from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina were killed. My village was burnt to the ground three times by the Croatian and Muslim fascists, and they killed everyone who did not manage to escape. The Serbs did not want to go to war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but neither did they want to live in a Muslim state. Bosnia and Herzegovina must be divided among the peoples and the people annexed to their homelands. Separated, they can live as good neighbors, whereas together they can only live as enemies.

B-H: Klickovic Rejects Any Reintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD2407200696 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1927 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Srebrenica, 24 Jul (TANJUG)—Gojko Klickovic, prime minister of the [Bosnian] Serb

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Republic, said in Srebrenica today that there is no question of any kind of reintegration of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina and that any attempt at reintegration would lead to a new war.

"The only way out is to revise the Dayton agreement after the elections, and create three republics in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina," Klickovic said.

Commenting on the heralded arrival of a new U.S. delegation led by John Kornblum, the prime minister of the Serb Republic said the Americans are probably not satisfied with what [U.S. envoy] Richard Holbrooke achieved and that they will seek fresh concessions.

Klickovic said the government of the Serb Republic will provide assistance for the relocation of 300 prefabricated houses from the refugee centre in Slapovici near Srebrenica.

The Serb Republic's government will also provide the most basic assistance for repair work on Srebrenica's infrastructure, especially telecommunications and the electricity supply.

B-H: Radical Leader Accuses Milosevic of Betraying Brcko

AU2407203796 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1627 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Banja Luka, 24 Jul—Nikola Poplasen, president of the Serb Radical Party [SRS] branch in the Serb Republic [RS] today accused Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic of "making more concessions that are detrimental to the Serb people in the RS than the international community is asking him to make."

At the news conference, Poplasen proposed an extraordinary session of the RS Assembly at which deputies would revoke the authority vested in Milosevic by the RS leadership to represent them in negotiations regarding a solution to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Poplasen called on all refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] to register for elections and to come and vote in the RS on 14 September, because "absentee voting will only be manipulated by the Serbian regime."

Commenting on the visit to Belgrade of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation's vice president, Ejup Ganic, Poplasen said: "It is unacceptable that I, an FRY citizen, have been turned back at the Drina border several times, while at the same time, Milosevic is receiving a fundamentalist and war criminal like Ejup Ganic and is negotiating the fate of the Serb people in the RS."

Commenting on the Brcko arbitration, Poplasen said that this was "one of the tricks" Slobodan Milosevic agreed with Richard Holbrooke—handing over Brcko to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, meaning that the western part of the RS will have to "merge with Croatia or some sort of Muslim state [muslimanija]."

"That some extremely dirty deals are underway on the Brcko issue is confirmed by the fact that no one has any real information as to what the subject of the arbitration actually is, because Milosevic is keeping this locked in his drawer and is pressuring arbiter Vitomir Popovic to sign something that he has not seen," Poplasen said.

He went on to warn Milosevic and "all others who are whetting their appetites on Brcko that this town would never be handed over to the Croatian-Muslim side because it is the only link and guarantee of survival for the western and eastern parts of the RS."

"Although we are considered to be a nationalist party, many people are not aware that the SRS has put forward a Muslim candidate from Bijeljina for deputy in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly's House of Representatives. The man in question spent the war as a soldier of the RS Army and is an active SRS member," Poplasen concluded.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Croatia: Belgium To Invest $4 Million in Vukovar River Port

AU2407070496 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 22 Jul 96

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Vojislav Stanimirovic met with (Baron Pierre de Groubain) today. We have a report:

Provincial Prime Minister Dr. Vojislav Stanimirovic received (Baron Pierre de Groubain), special Belgian ambassador to the Serb Province of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, in Vukovar today. They discussed the reasons for the standstill in the implementation of the Erdut Agreement.

Prime Minister Stanimirovic told correspondents that the Croatian policy of preventing the displaced Serbs from returning to their homes and the failure to provide compensation for lost property are the key reasons for the standstill in the Erdut Agreement implementation.

Ambassador (de Groubain) agrees with our positions regarding the return of refugee Croats to the province, and promised that Belgium would apply pressure on Croatia through the international community, the goal of which will be to get the refugee Serbs who are currently in the province and in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to return, said the prime minister.

Stanimirovic also pointed out that the ambassador also completely agreed that the Erdut Agreement implementation cannot be successful without a complete amnesty law. I believe that such law will be passed very soon, said Stanimirovic, adding that we had great support of Ambassador (de Groubain) in achieving that goal.

Discussing concrete financial investment, the provincial prime minister told the correspondents that the ambassador's position was that Belgium will invest $4 million in the reconstruction of Vukovar river port. According to Stanimirovic, investment in the other UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] projects is expected by the end of the summer.

Ambassador (de Groubain), who did not have the time to talk to the correspondents, showed great interest in the way the transitional police forces operate. The joint assessment was that the forces are still not operating in a satisfactory way due to a lack of funds.

Croatia: Persecution of Ex-Krajina Serbs 'Continues'

LD2307222596 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2216 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 23 (TANJUG)—The persecution of Serbs remaining in the territory of Serb Krajina in Croatia continues even today, the Helsinki Watch branch in Croatia said.

The statement carried by AFP Tuesday underlines that criminal acts, property confiscations and looting continue in the parts of Krajina that Croatian authorities had taken in their military actions in August last year. This demonstrates that Croatian authorities are unable to ensure the safety of people living in these territories, the statement says.

In its military action against Serbs in August 1995, Croatia conquered the greatest part of the then republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], although it was a U.N.-protected area.

Over 350,000 Serbs fled the Croatian aggression seeking shelter in neighboring Republika Srpska in Bosnia and in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In earlier aggressions, 250,000 Serbs had already been expelled from RSK, so that the Serb population in Croatia has been reduced to only between three and four percent of the pre-war number.

The Croatian branch of the Helsinki committee has made public several reports on violence over about 3,000 Serbs who have remained in Croatia following the aggressions.

The U.N. Security Council has several times criticized Croatian authorities for the persecution of Serbs during and after the military actions, and demanded that Croatia allow the expelled Serbs to return home.

Croatia: Commentary Says Officials, UNTAES Seek To Expel Serbs

AU2407085996 Beli Manastir Radio-Televizija Republike Srpske Krajine Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past several days we have witnessed more attempts on the part of Croatia as well as the UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] to let the Serb people know they cannot stay in their homes. [sentence as heard] [Words indistinct] the pilot programs for the alleged return—the visits to western Slavonia—as well as the unannounced visits of Croatian officials to the territory of the Serb province of eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The pilot program of visits and possible return of both Serb and Croat people to their homes was supposed to be a step towards establishing trust. However, it has been clear from the very beginning that the Croatian side does not want that, as it has been trying to achieve only its own aims in every way possible. These aims are well known and easily recognizable—the Croatian state cleansed of Serbs, if possible.

It was agreed that such visits would be organized and planned to the minutest detail. The reality is, however, quite different.

The latest example of this being so is transitional administrator Klein's unannounced visit, and, in the presence of the UNTAES, the visit of several Croatian representatives—Radic and Glavas—to the Bilje community on 17 July. [sentence as heard]

This visit caused great anger and distress among people throughout Baranja, particularly in the Bilje community, the inhabitants of which wanted to leave the same day because of the above mentioned event. It is evident that this was the main aim of both the Croatian side and those who made it possible for this to happen.

Another example is the attempt to make it possible for 36 Croats to visit the community of Luc on 22 July, where they were to attend mass in the Catholic church. The list of the people who were to visit contains the names of some of the people who should answer for crimes committed on the territory of the Serb province of eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem. In this attempt it is evident that Croatia's and UNTAES' priority is reintegration rather than the main agreement between Croatia and the Serb province. Moreover, the provocation is again aimed towards creating fear and driving the Serb people out of this area.

Much as they are trying to drive them out of here, they do not want them in other areas in which they lived for centuries. An example of this is the recent visit of a group of 24 Serb women—men are, evidently, not welcome even in this way—to municipalities in western Slavonia. The program for the visit was put together by the representatives of the Red Cross in Slavonska Pozega. And what did they see? Destroyed houses of Serbs who had been expelled from their homes. Pure Serb villages do not exist. They were destroyed according to a scenario. The best picture of the real situation concerning the pilot program is the Serb village of Kusonje. The village has been completely destroyed; only four or five—Croat—houses are being rebuilt.

After considering these few examples, the pilot program for the return comes into question. Perhaps the best thing would be to halt everything and have all the interested sides meet again and try to objectively consider the issue of return—primarily the return of the Serb people to their homes. However, time will tell how the situation will develop.

Croatia: Fairness in Bosnian TV Election Coverage 'Illusion'

AU2507093396 Zagreb HRVATSKI OBZOR in Serbo-Croatian 22 Jul 96 p 34

[Commentary by Alenko Zornija: "SRNA Puts on Airs of Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How will TV stations in Bosnia-Herzegovina cover the election campaign and organize their program until 12 September, which should be the last day of the campaign before the pre-election silence on 13 September, and the elections on 14 September?

Formally, at least, the "state" television stations in both the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serb Republic will make their program available to all the parties participating in the elections, in order to present them in an equal way. The election shows have already been conceived, and some are even being broadcast, mainly according to the "equal time, conditions, and space for everybody" principle. "The Elections '96," the show produced the Banja Luka studio of TV Pale, had its opening night on 8 July. The bizarre aspect of that show was that the person who kicked it off was none other than the acting director of the "Bosniak" state television, Amila Omersoftic, president of the Party of Women of Bosnia-Herzegovina, thus becoming the first politician from the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina to introduce herself to the audience in the Serb entity.

So far the only Croats and Bosniak Muslims who have had an opportunity to "visit" Pale TV have been those captured by either Mladic's army or Karadzic's police, who talked before the SRNA [Serb Republic News Agency] cameras about the "good treatment by the Serb authorities," "terror in Alija's state," "crimes committed against Serbs" and so on. After Ms. Omersoftic, whose appearance was regarded in the Bosniak-Muslim media as unusually courageous, some other Federation politicians appeared as guests on Pale TV. However, to prevent the audience's being misled and drawing the wrong conclusions about the nature of the television station that is still under Karadzic's direct control, one must say that the station's editor in chief had earlier done his best to show that the Federation parties' election broadcasts presented only an "illusion of democracy." And he sought to prove it by his comment on the news that eight Federation parties had become candidates in the elections in the Serb entity. "It is very likely that the history of world and European democracy, all the way

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

back to Pericles, has never seen a case in which parties from one country have run in the elections in another country," Pale TV's editor in chief said about the parties from the other side of the inter-entity line.

Bizarre Behavior at Pale TV

The election presentation on Serb television is, however, riddled with paradoxes that for someone not directly involved might even be entertaining. Unfortunately, they do not entertain the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, because in the end all local "circuses" fall flat. For instance, at Serb television, they have had the idea of giving the audience an opportunity to put questions to the studio guests. The partiality and tendentiousness of the studio host was not enough. Thus both the guests from the Federation and the Serb opposition were exposed to the wrath of the Serb population and to questions that were often below the level of good taste. Another element contributing to the bizarreness is the fact that the telephone lines have not yet been established between the entities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, so that viewers from the Federation were not able to call to speak their minds about everything. Perhaps it is better so, because then there would be a real circus.

Because freedom of movement is only an illusion, and the Croats and Bosniak Muslims cannot go into the Serb entity, the Federation parties' visit looked even more bizarre. So far, Izetbegovic's SDA [Party of Democratic Action] has not accepted the invitations of the Pale TV and radio, and it was supposed to be a guest on Banja Luka radio on 9 July. However, the media under the control of the leading Bosniak-Muslim party are not ideal either. It would be difficult to list all the unfair moves of that media house toward the Bosniak-Muslim opposition and HDZ [Croatian Democratic Union]. For instance, in the main daily newscast, an "unpleasant" question put by a journalist to opposition leader Sejfudin Tokic was broadcast but not his answer. In addition, one could mention the tendentious host of the "Face to Face" show, Senad Hadzifejzovic, editor of the RTV [Radio and Television] Bosnia-Herzegovina news program, who, what an irony, was proclaimed the best Bosnia-Herzegovina journalist a year ago.

Illusion of Equal Treatment

As far as RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina election coverage is concerned, some fifteen days ago that station announced its election program policy. The listeners and viewers are entitled to be fully informed about facts and opinions that are important for making decisions in the pre-election and election activities. "The participants in election activities may not focus their activity on the violent change of the establishment determined by the Constitution. They may not focus on jeopardizing the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or on the violation of human and civic rights and freedoms. Nor may they focus on jeopardizing peace and international cooperation, stirring up national, racial and religious hatred, and intolerance, or jeopardizing the security or defense of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or inciting criminal acts, and they may not offend public morality.

"All parties may have equal time on RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina, within the framework of these guidelines." How this looks in practice, however, remains to be seen, because the RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina election program is only warming up. Of course, in their special election shows all the television stations will be trying to create the impression of equal treatment for all parties. The television will influence the electorate much more in the regular news programs, and it is precisely here that the situation is out of order. Particularly in the Serb entity, but also at RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is superfluous to talk about the former. The protests filed by the opposition talk about RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the opposition has even been calling for the creation of an emergency administration at the "state" television.

After all, even the entertainment shows are not immune to politics. The latest case involves the show "Curious Camera," in which Sead Avdic, SDP [Social Democratic Party] candidate for the Presidency, was a guest. He has complained that the show on which he was a guest was inappropriately edited, because all the analytical parts were cut out. "RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina is permeated by the one-party system," Avdic said.

Clearly, both the Serb entity television and RTV Bosnia-Herzegovina have sufficient quantities of the one-party quality.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FYROM: PDP Urges Albanian Students To Be Calm

AU2507094796 Skopje MIC in English 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the front page of today's daily newspaper FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT, the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP) addresses the "student youth and those who respect education in these times which are made turbulent by the political demagogues, to hold on to their reason." PDP recommends that only then "can it become clear who is for and who is against the university. No one can lift a hand to destroy the university, or the authorities or those who unjustly identify themselves with the university. PDP feels that the mutual attacks cannot benefit the Albanians, but can only be to their disadvantage."

PDP expresses its profound distress in relation to the recent developments surrounding the Tetovo university (TU) and the imprisonment of the TU activists.

Once again, PDP states that it remains on its former stance that the closing of these activists cannot have any kind of legal foundation in a democratic state. It regards the implementation of such undemocratic methods as arbitrary act of the judicial authorities.

PDP is concerned over the "unscrupulous intentions of some small Albanian parties, which attempt to place the recent events surrounding the TU in the function of manipulation with the Albanian electorate. Their goal is to create political confusion and a vertical rift among the Albanians in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM]. After above-party consensus over the TU is reached, as an all-Albanian interest, it is clear that the rift among the Albanians will be instigated by the nationalistic forces. Today, those forces have created a rift and political degradation of the PDP with their party activities, as the first political subject of the Albanians."

FYROM: Ethnologists Concerned About Albanian Separatism

LD2407154096 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1349 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Skopje, 24 Jul (SRNA)—The presidency of the Association of Macedonian Ethnologists voiced its concern in Skopje today over the latest escalation of Greater Albanian separatism and the lack of response from those in charge of protecting the constitution and law of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM].

"The strategy of the anti-Macedonian campaign was worked out on 10 July during a secret meeting in the Skopje theater between Albanians, Muslims, and the ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Macedonia, Shaban Murati," said Zoran Atanasovski, secretary of the association, to a new conference in Skopje.

He said that the 118th anniversary of the Prizren League, a pan-Islamic organization, was also marked on that occasion. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the association, Dr. Nijaz Limanovski, said the Balkans, Macedonia in particular, were being swamped by radical Islam and Albanian political rallies were effectively being used to draw a new map of Greater Albania.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Poland: General on Formation of Polish-Ukrainian Battalion

WS2407132696 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 24 Jul 96 pp 1-2

[Interview with Major General Zenon Bryk, commander of the Krakow Military District, by Jacek Szustakowski; place and date not given: "The Polish-Ukrainian Battalion—First Exercises To Be Held in September"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Szustakowski] **General, how has the Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion been established?**

[Bryk] In 1994, [former Defense] Minister Okonski and Ukrainian Defense Minister Shmarov had a meeting at Solina during which they made a joint decision to establish a Polish-Ukrainian battalion. In 1995, we prepared the organizational structures, which were approved by the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces and the General Staff of the Ukrainian Army. We earmarked appropriate sums of money, as well as delegated forces which were to become part of the joint battalion. Then we worked out a training schedule for soldiers representing both sides. It only included, however, training in our own garrisons. During the exercises at the Jaworow training ground last June, Defense Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski set the date of establishing the battalion for 1 January 1997. Hence, my recent visit to Ukraine; I went there to talk to the commander of the Carpathian Military District and to agree on the details of forming this battalion.

[Szustakowski] **What decisions were made during the talks at the headquarters of the Carpathian Military District?**

[Bryk] General Shulyak and I decided to meet the deadlines imposed by the two defense ministers. We decided that this year we would hold joint training exercises at the Debie training ground; it will be part of the "Tatras '96" exercises. [passage omitted]

[Szustakowski] **Will the 1 January deadline be met?**

[Bryk] This does not depend only on the Polish side, but also on our Ukrainian partners, and the money that can be allocated for this purpose. However, regardless of whether this battalion is formed on 1 January or on 30 June 1997, joint training exercises must be held so that on the date which has been fixed we can report that the battalion not only exists on paper, but has actually been formed.

[Szustakowski] **What about cooperation with the Ukrainian side? How is it developing at present?**

[Bryk] It seems to me that right now this cooperation is very good. It involves not only holding meetings at the level of military district commanders and exchanging views on training, combat readiness, organization of troops and structures; the cooperation is far deeper—it goes down to the level of brigades, and even battalions. All this serves the purpose of our organizing and implementing the training process together. It also helps servicemen to get to know one another and withhold nothing from each other. In other words, we are doing this to build up mutual trust. [passage omitted]

Poland: Two Polls Differ on Support for Major Parties

WS2507102296 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 25 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by "AN": "A CBOS Poll: The 'Solidarity' Initiative Ahead of the SLD?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] *In July the "Solidarity" Electoral Initiative went slightly ahead of the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD], which has so far been the leader on all ranking lists. This is one of the results of the most recent poll conducted by the Public Opinion Research Center [CBOS].*

Aside from "Solidarity" itself, the "Solidarity" Electoral Initiative also consists of the Christian-National Union, the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms, the Center Accord, the Movement of One Hundred, and the Confederation for an Independent Poland. It is possible that the reason why the "Solidarity" Initiative, which appeared in a CBOS poll for the first time, obtained such good results is that it represents the long-awaited proposal to unify the right wing. Another possibility is that the initiative may have taken votes away from Jan Olszewski's Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland [ROP], which in a recent CBOS poll received as many votes as the Polish Peasant Party [PSL].

This is yet another poll which shows a drop in the rating of the post-communist left wing and an improvement in the position of the so-called post-Solidarity right wing (the ROP or "Solidarity"). It should be noted that the Freedom Union [UW] maintained its permanent electorate—approximately 8 percent. [passage omitted]

[Box, p 1]

Elections According to CBOS

"Solidarity" Electoral Initiative—26 percent

SLD—22 percent
PSL—14 percent
ROP—13 percent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UW—8 percent
Union of Labor—5 percent

The CBOS took its poll between 12 and 17 July on a representative sample of 1,088 adult Poles.

[On 23 July GAZETA WYBORCZA carried on page two a 250-word report by "PAP" and "WZ" entitled "The OBOP; the Left Wing Ahead of Others, the Right Wing Up." The report presented the results of an opinion poll carried out by the Center for Research on Public Opinion [OBOP] between 12 and 16 July on a representative sample of 979 people in Poland. In this poll, the SLD was backed by 24 percent. The left wing was followed by the "Solidarity" Electoral Initiative, 15 percent, which was 2 percent less than in June. The ROP received 13 percent. GAZETA WYBORCZA noted that "the number of supporters of this party is growing slowly yet steadily (in April it was supported by 8 percent and in May—by 11 percent)." The PSL also received more votes than in previous months—10 percent, whereas in the previous two months—9 percent. The popularity of the UW slumped to 6 percent—10 percent in April and 8 percent in May. All other parties received less than 5 percent.]

Poland: TV Official Investigates Claims of Staff Links to Mafia

LD2407145196 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1400 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ryszard Miazek, chairman of Public Television, has asked Jacek Bochenek, head of the Television Information Agency [TAI], to explain the controversy connected with the social event which was attended, apart from the TAI journalists, also by representatives of the Warsaw criminal world. Joanna Bancerowska from the board of the Polish Television Joint-Stock Company said that TAI Chairman Miazek could not contemplate keeping under employment any journalists who may be suspected of having contacts with representatives of the criminal world.

[Begin Bancerowska recording] The chairman is very much concerned about this and is now awaiting explanations, primarily from Mr. Jacek Bochenek, director of the TAI. The chairman has also asked the police for information, as the article in RZECZPOSPOLITA referred to police reports. Those responsible will certainly be held accountable. At the moment, it is difficult to say what will happen because it is a real precedent.

The chairman said that he could not envisage working together with these people, if the allegations prove to be true. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Romania: Defense Minister on Problems in NATO 'Selection'

AU2307085096 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 18 Jul 96 p 4

[Article by Victor Ciutacu: "Gheorghe Tinca: 'There Is No Doubt That the Romanian People's Natural Option Is Toward the West'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Gheorghe Tinca, who participated in the Mass Media Summer School in Eforie Nord yesterday, tackled several issues pertaining to our country's adherence to NATO. According to Minister Tinca, there is no doubt that the Romanian people's natural option is toward the West. If we lose this option or erroneously interpret this phenomenon and if we isolate ourselves or accept becoming isolated, the repercussions will be felt for a long time to come.

Referring to the adherence to NATO "in stages," the minister of national defense said that the selective inclusion of three or four states in the organization, without giving acceptable prospects to the others, may lead to the East's fragmentation from a security viewpoint. If NATO took such measures, Gheorghe Tinca said, there is the risk that this adherence modality would create more problems than it would solve. His personal opinion is that the NATO expansion "in waves" is a mistake and he does not believe that there will be a second wave.

Likewise, Gheorghe Tinca is convinced that Hungary and Romania should join NATO together; however, our country will not try to block the adherence of the neighboring country in any way. In a generalizing remark, Gheorghe Tinca added that Romania does not oppose the adherence of any country, but it does not accept someone else opposing our integration. In spite of all this, Gheorghe Tinca expressed the fear that there will be lobbies and even diplomatic circles, which will try to capitalize on a so-called advantage in the race for integration.

At the end of the meeting with the participants in the seminar proceedings, Gheorghe Tinca forecast that the first affirmative answers regarding the adherence to NATO will be given in the spring of 1997 at the earliest.

Romania: Spokesman Comments on Hungarian Statement, NATO

AU2407130696 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Foreign Ministry spokesman's weekly news conference held today by Secretary of State Lazar Comanescu, a communique was read that included comments on the views of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry that was handed to the Romanian Embassy in Budapest on 17 July regarding the position of the Romanian Foreign Ministry on the joint declaration that the representatives of the Hungarian Government, the political parties in Hungary, and the Hungarian communities beyond the borders issued on 11 July, as a response to the joint declaration signed in Budapest.

Comanescu stressed the fact that study of the Hungarian side's response only provides partial clarifications, leaving unanswered numerous essential aspects, particularly regarding the Hungarian Government's support for autonomy on an ethnic bases, financing communities beyond the borders from the state budget of the Hungarian Republic, and establishing political relations between the Hungarian Government and groups of citizens who belong to other states. Given the intriguing issues that the Budapest declaration and its possible consequences imply, the Romanian Foreign Ministry states that the provisions included in this declaration, to which the Hungarian side has referred, are unacceptable.

Instead of assisting the consolidation of a climate of understanding on a bilateral plane, these provisions introduce elements of suspicion and are generating tension between the two countries.

The communique read today at the news conference also stresses the fact that the Romanian Foreign Ministry reserves the right to return to these problems.

Regarding the initiative of some Republican congressmen that was endorsed yesterday by the House of the Representatives of the U.S. Congress, by which NATO expansion is requested and $60 million of military assistance is offered to support Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic in their preparations to join the NATO alliance, Lazar Commanescu said that this is resolution does not stipulate the fact that NATO expansion will only include these countries. The decision on NATO enlargement has not yet been taken. Separate bilateral contacts between NATO and each country in the coming period are very important in this respect.

At the same news conference, it was announced that, at the French side's proposal, Romania's Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu will pay an official visit to France on 31 July. During the visit, talks are scheduled with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and with high French officials regarding the stage and the prospects of bilateral relations and France's support for Romania's preparation with a view to integration into the European Union and into the European and Euro-Atlantic strategic structures in general.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Referring to the letter sent to Romania's president by U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith, in which President Ion Iliescu is asked not to use the issue of most-favored-nation status as a subject in the electoral campaign, Secretary of State Lazar Commanescu said that the head of the state will respond to Congressman Smith, emphasizing that the granting of the most-favored-nation status for Romania on a permanent basis was hailed by the entire society in our country.

Romania: Melescanu Believes MFN Status 'Won' in Bucharest

AU2407184496 Bucharest VOCEA ROMANIEI in Romanian 22 Jul 96 p 4

[Interview with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu by RADOR agency, in Atlanta on 19 July: "Most-Favored-Nation Status Was Won in Bucharest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [RADOR] Mr. Minister, you have just attended the ceremony at the Atlanta stadium. I imagine that you were pleased with the state of spirit there, quite befitting for a comment on the good news that we have also spread, namely the surprise vote in the U.S. Senate. How did it come to pass?

[Melescanu] I would say that the vote did not come as a surprise, because, after the discussions in the Chamber of Representatives and in view of the majority people who supported us there it was obvious that there will be no problems in the Senate, other than procedural ones linked to scheduling the debate. We were fortunate enough to manage to arrange for the discussion to be held very quickly and that the meeting's chairman realized there are no difficulties in this respect, since nobody was raising any objections. The meeting made it clear that the matter would be easy to solve, since there was no opposition. The decision was practically made without a debate, through the consensus of all participants. Therefore, I can say that this is no surprise—at least not an unexpected surprise. We were also fortunate enough to rapidly organize discussion of the entire package, since we are actually talking here about a package of seven laws, including the one referring to our country.

[RADOR] Anyhow, it was a very pleasant surprise, because it came so soon after the vote in the Chamber of Representatives. At this time, Romania is recouping spectacularly—even though belatedly—the gap vis-a-vis the other Central and East European countries in the matter of most-favored-nation [MFN] status. Does this give us hope that we can set out in the race for NATO on an equal footing with others? After all, this was a cornerstone along the road. What did you notice in this respect in Washington?

[Melescanu] I would say that the MFN issue had more to do with bringing Romania back to the level of other countries—in other words, it was a matter of mending certain past difficulties, for which we were not exactly to blame. However, the NATO problem is a new one, with each of the candidates trying to use its assets to the utmost, to be included in the respective process as fast as possible. After the discussions conducted here, in Washington, I believe most sincerely that Romania is one of the most serious candidates for NATO's expansion and this belief does not rely on subjective elements; it is a conclusion which was clearly shared with me by all the people I talked to here.

[RADOR] What you are telling us is very important, because, as you know very well, many statements smacking of complacency and of a rather unjustified optimism were made in the past. You claim that this is not the case now and we actually noticed a much more offensive tone of voice in your presentation of Romania's assets for NATO admittance.

[Melescanu] As happens in many spheres, there are times in diplomacy, too, when things should be said quite plainly and clearly—maybe in a slightly more aggressive tone, too, but in the positive meaning of the word. When I say this, I am thinking of moments which, if missed, are very hard to recover later. Right now, I believe that, as far as NATO's expansion is concerned, all the candidate countries, including Romania, are at a very important moment, when a decision is in the making.

[RADOR] Last Thursday EVENIMENTUL ZILEI wrote exaltingly that "the sun has finally come our for us, too!" Do you believe that this is a suitable motto for your trip to the United States?

[Melescanu] It is hard for me to comment on the headlines which your colleagues choose to give. It is obvious that granting the MFN clause was received very well by the Romanian community here and by the congressmen I talked to. It was received as a very positive development and as the expression of particular interest in and support for Romania. Therefore, if this open and clear interest and support, which granting the MFN status implies, can be considered a sunrise, then we can also share in this optimism. However, I would say that what we are dealing with here are the conditions created for Romania to be treated on an equal footing with others. From now on, we will have to make great efforts and exertions to ensure that this sunrise brings the necessary warmth, which we abundantly need—to express myself metaphorically—in our relations.

[RADOR] If you recall, Mr. [Nicolae] Manolescu [president of the Civic Alliance Party] said in 1990 that "the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

MFN clause was lost in Bucharest." Can we now say that the MFN status was won at home and that it will have to be capitalized on also at home, since the difficult part is still ahead of us?

[Melescanu] I also share your opinion that the clause was won at home. What we are doing here, in Washington, is to present, as professionally and intelligently as possible, the things that are happening at home. Therefore, the main consideration is what is happening at home. The Romanian economy and society are also making their contribution, so to speak, to gaining MFN status. At the same time, I would like to emphasize the support given to us by the Romanian community in America, which this time was much more obvious than in the past. Of course, as you just said, the MFN status is won and has been won in Bucharest, but the efforts made in Washington count, too, as well as those in the constituencies with Romanian ethnics, who have contributed—through the letters sent to their congressmen and senators and other endeavors—to obtaining the necessary support for this law on granting MFN status on an indefinite basis.

Romania: Iliescu Explains Retraction of MFN Vote Comments

AU2407205396 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 24 Jul 96

[Report on statements by Romanian President Ion Iliescu; Emil Constantinescu, president of the Democratic Convention of Romania; and Petre Roman, co-president of the Social Democratic Union, after a meeting at Cotroceni Palace 24 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from our Cotroceni correspondent Cristian Nita:

[Nita] A meeting took place today at Cotroceni Palace, at the invitation of the head of state, with Emil Constantinescu, president of the Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR], and Petre Roman, co-president of the Social Democratic Union [USD]. During the meeting, the three political leaders discussed the significance of the U.S. Congress' vote on granting the most-favored-nation [MFN] status to Romania on a permanent basis. The sides noted that the clause was granted to Romania and the Romanian people and that it is equally the result of the endeavors of the officials and the opposition in Romania.

In this respect, President Ion Iliescu retracted his statements—made at a news conference at Cotroceni on 18 July—in which he said that the opposition had not cooperated toward this goal.

After the meeting, the three political leaders made brief statements. First, the statement of Romania's President Ion Iliescu:

[Iliescu] You have here a statement we have jointly agreed upon, regarding this moment of the granting of MFN status to Romania on a permanent basis and all the discussions conducted on this topic in the press. We understood to the need to relieve this tense climate, which benefits no one, and emphasized the importance of this moment—granting the clause on a permanent basis—for our relations with the United States, both on the political and particularly the economic plane. This moment marks an important political point in the evolution of the relations between our countries in recent years, and it is the result of the joint efforts of all political forces in Romania and of all officials involved in the relations with the United States for the past six years. This is a positive moment for their future evolution. That is why, we introduced this joint assessment in the communique, including the reconsideration of certain statements I made about the contribution of the political forces, including the opposition ones, to these efforts. Likewise, we came to the conclusion that it is not to the advantage of Romanian society and the political forces that these problems, which are of national interest, be ventilated in the electoral campaign. On the contrary, we hope that the electoral campaign will take its natural course. It will probably also trigger off some passionate outbursts, but the major problems of national interest, which affect our foreign relations—here we identified the major goals, upon which a broad convergence of the political forces became apparent, namely the integration in the EU and NATO—are still platforms for convergence and cooperation among the political forces. Personally, I expressed the hope that the Snagov experience should inspire us, regardless of the campaign unfolding and the results of the elections, in achieving this cooperation among all the active and constructive political forces in our country.

[Nita] Emil Constantinescu, CDR president, said the following:

[Constantinescu] As is known, the CDR has consistently backed all the foreign policy initiatives regarding our integration in the EU and NATO. As far as the MFN status is concerned, I expressed—in a letter sent to President Clinton—a very clear stance in favor of the clause, which I subsequently reiterated in all meetings I had with the U.S. officials. I am glad that this statement issued today reestablishes the truth. I express the CDR endorsement for the suggestion that the issues of major interest—namely the integration in the EU and NATO—

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

should not become a subject of dispute in the electoral campaign.

[Nita] Petre Roman, USD co-president, said in his turn:

[Roman] We have always worked and strived to make a steady contribution to ensuring that our country obtains the MFN status from the United States. Since this is a matter of national interest, a letter was sent to the U.S. Congress in 1993 at my initiative, in which all leaders of the opposition parties represented in Parliament asked the U.S. Congress to back our request for this important clause for our country. As a matter of fact, my personal experience shows—after all, as far back as 1991 in Strasbourg, I pleaded before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Romania's admittance to the Council of Europe—how important it is to reunite all political forces around the national interest. I hope that my presence here, on behalf of the USD, has contributed to achieving the idea that the national interest cannot be a subject of bargain between parties and politicians and that no one should try to score points at the expense of the national interest. I express the hope that, in light of the upcoming electoral campaign, all of us will manage to show common sense and act in good faith.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Federal

FRY: Agreement Reached With Bosnia on Road, Rail, Air Links

LD2407163196 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1446 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 24 Jul (TANJUG)—Talks between Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic and Ejup Ganic, deputy prime minister of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation—who, in his capacity as the head of the [Bosnia-Herzegovina] political and business delegation, was paying a two-day visit to Belgrade—were completed in Belgrade today. High-ranking officials attended the talks, says a statement issued by the Federal Yugoslav Information Secretariat.

They reaffirmed their readiness to gradually normalize relations, to ensure further progress in the implementation of the peace agreement, and to resolve specific outstanding issues.

It was concluded that economic links and interests provided solid foundations for the revival of cooperation between the two economies and especially for the reconstruction of disrupted communication links.

To this end, they reached agreements in principle on the establishment of road, rail, and air links. Authorized representatives of both sides signed relevant papers regarding these agreements. Experts will then draw up the specifications of these agreements. It was also agreed that the work on the reestablishment and improvement of telecommunications and postal services should continue.

It was also agreed that the two sides would open offices representing the Yugoslav and Bosnia-Herzegovina economic chambers in Belgrade and Sarajevo. [passage omitted]

FRY: Opposition Parties To Meet 26 Jul To Form Election Bloc

AU2507084396 Belgrade BETA in English 0550 GMT 25 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade—The spokesman of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), the strongest opposition party in Serbia, Ivan Kovacevic announced that a new meeting of the Serbian and Montenegrin opposition will be held this Friday. The meeting is due to held in Belgrade. It will be organized by the Civic Alliance of Serbia (GSS), a small parliamentary opposition party. Leader of the Democratic Party (DS) Zoran Djindjic said that the Serbian and Montenegrin democratic opposition will in mid-August make a "concrete agreement on a joint list" for the federal elections.

The first meeting of the opposition parties of the two Yugoslav republics was held in Podgorica on July 19. The leaders of the Peoples Party of Montenegro (NSCG), SPO, DS, the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS), and the Social-Democratic Party of Montenegro (SDPCG) attended the meeting. The leader of the NSCG Novak Kilibarda initiated the meeting, with the intention of creating a league of democratic opposition parties, which would form a joint bloc at the federal elections.

FRY: Refugees From Bosnia Urged To Vote in Bosnian Election

LD2407150896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1432 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 24 (TANJUG)—The Association of Refugees and the Expelled in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) on Wednesday called all refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina to apply for the September elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The association said in a declaration that elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina were an opportunity for the refugees, for the first time after the war, to freely exercize their right to vote, which is at the same time their duty and right. The association appealed on international institutions to be helpful to all refugees in the F.R.Y. to vote, to exercize the principles of equality embodied in the Dayton Agreement.

In the F.R.Y., there are 215,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina with the right to vote.

Serbia

Serbia: Milosevic Called Dayton's 'Guardian of Peace'

AU2407144596 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 23 Jul 96 p 8

[Commentary by Velimir Ilic: "War Fantasies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Peace has no alternative" were words that echoed and still emanate, on various appropriate occasions, from Belgrade, mainly from the mouth of Slobodan Milosevic, but also from groveling parrots who had always thought exactly the same way as the president of Serbia. Since Sunday, however, Milosevic—as the Daytonic guardian of peace on behalf of the Serbs on both the left and right banks of the Drina River—has quite a disquieting problem. At a public rally in Vucjak, near Prnjavor, Momcilo Krajisnik, chairman of the National Assembly of the Serb Republic, said: for the leaders of the Serb Republic, territorial integrity, that is, Brcko, was more important than peace! Following

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the logic of the statement that "Brcko is more important than peace," does that mean that war is more important than Brcko? Reading between the lines, it seems that Krajisnik's statement should be understood exactly in that way.

Krajisnik, of course, has the right to think and say what his own political sensibility, or perhaps the views of the leadership from Pale, tell him. However, by saying what he said, he passed the hot potato to Milosevic, who, as the self-appointed guru and representative of Pale's political top, now has to explain to the world "what the poet wanted to say" by mentioning peace and Brcko. And all the more so because the vehement tug of war over the implementation of the Dayton agreement, particularly in connection with Brcko, which will be the object of international arbitration, is still in progress.

It is also possible that Krajisnik's order of precedence was not a "slip of the tongue." There are several assumptions as to why this would be so: first, to make verbal pressure that heralds the option of using force to solve the problem of Brcko in the interest of the Serb side; and second, to show that after the blow that was experienced by the elimination of Radovan Karadzic, the Serb Republic leadership is still standing and accepts no more counting by the judges. Third—improbable but not impossible—that in cahoots with Milosevic, Krajisnik's harsh evaluation is intended to keep up the strategic grappling with the world. Thus, in contacts with Holbrooke, Bildt, or Frowick, the president of Serbia would shrug and say: "Gentlemen, I will have to intervene once more, the scoundrels within our ranks are pretty hardheaded and you know of course that this was not exactly what we had agreed. I promise that everything will be all right, believe me. I will do all I can. After all, peace has no alternative."

Be that as it may, it seems that the tomahawks are not buried very deeply. This might be because they could come in handy for threatening and coercing to reach a more favorable solution, to gain a better negotiating position, to show themselves before their people, or to warn the other side... However, the latest events and the outcome of the "Karadzic case" have shown that some playing cards are no longer as good as they used to be and that the world's bear is not exactly afraid of our sieve. Milosevic has obviously learned that lesson better than his "protiges," and the fact that Krajisnik's statement will probably not be his last problem on the other bank of the Drina River, is his own fault.

Serbia: SRS Leader Condemns Milosevic for Receiving Ganic

AU2407154396 Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1258 GMT 24 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 24 Jul (BETA)—At a public panel held in Mali Zvornik today, Serbian Radical Party [SRS] President Vojislav Seselj sharply condemned "Ejup Ganic's visit to Belgrade, because he is responsible for the horrific massacre Muslim forces committed against Yugoslav Army soldiers on Dobrovoljacka Street in Sarajevo."

In a public statement, Seselj said that as the ideologist and organizer of crimes against Serbs, "Ganic should have been arrested and made to stand trial."

Seselj added that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the socialist authorities "are obviously being blackmailed and put under great pressure by the United States to have agreed to the worst humiliation and insults and to receive at the highest level and with all state honors the very man who said Serbia should have been destroyed."

"To attack and condemn Serb patriot Radovan Karadzic while at the same time extending hospitality to Muslim war criminals is the culmination of Slobodan Milosevic's anti-Serb capitulation policy," the SRS leader concluded.

Serbia: VRS Officers Reportedly Training in Army's Academy

AU2407195596 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 24 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by V.J.: "Officers of the Serb Republic Army Are Being Trained in the Yugoslav Army's Military Academy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] NASA BORBA has learned that a group of officers of the Serb Republic Army [VRS] are among the freshmen at the Yugoslav Army's School for National Defense. General Novica Simic, commander of the VRS East Bosnian Corps from Bijeljina is among the group of high-ranking VRS officers, as are some of the most prominent officers from the VRS security ranks.

Observers say this step implies Belgrade's wish to create a reliable personnel basis in the VRS command. They also interpret General Zdravko Tolimir's recent statement, that the VRS would remain impartial in the case of Radovan Karadzic's arrest, in the same light.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

END OF FICHE

DATE FILMED

30 July 96